



Tips for a Pet-Safe Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving means friends, family and food...lots of food. But what makes for a great holiday for people can be distressing, or even dangerous, for pets. Here are some common-sense tips for keeping your pet safe and stress-free on Thanksgiving:

NO TURKEY

Never give your pet raw or undercooked turkey – it could contain salmonella bacteria. Turkey bones are a choking hazard, and can splinter and cause inflammation of the GI tract when ingested.

NOT-SO-SWEET TREATS

You're probably aware that chocolate is toxic to dogs, but you might not know that raisins and grapes should also be kept away from canine companions. Candies containing the artificial sweetener xylitol, found in many types of gums, mints, candy and pastries, can be poisonous to dogs. Even small amounts of xylitol sweetener can cause a sudden drop in blood sugar, lack of coordination and seizures, and liver failure.

OFF-LIMITS SNACKS

Many common ingredients for cooking can be harmful to your pet. Alcohol, onions, yeast dough and macadamia nuts can all lead to stomach upset, diarrhea or pancreatitis. Sage, part of many stuffing recipes, can cause pets to suffer stomach upset and possible depression of the central nervous system.

FLOWERS

Be careful with holiday floral arrangements. Lilies are commonly used this time of year, and all varieties including Tiger, Asian, Japanese Show, Stargazer and Casa Blanca, can cause kidney failure in cats.

GUEST LIST

Make sure guests refrain from feeding your pets, especially table scraps. Guests may want to lavish attention on your pets, but the extra people and activity can also cause pets stress. Also, your guests may not be as careful as they enter and exit your home, increasing the risk that your dog or cat can escape out the door.

ID, PLEASE!

Make sure your pet is wearing up-to-date identification and that the microchip company has current contact information. If, for any reason, your pet escapes and becomes lost, a collar and tag, and microchip, increases the chance that he will be returned to you.

If your dog accidentally ingests any potentially harmful products and you need emergency advice, consult your veterinarian, or contact the ASPCA's Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435 (a fee applies) or online at www.asPCA.org/apcc.